

a molecular weight of about 19 kD, which polypeptide binds to a *patched* protein or promotes proliferation of testicular germ line cells.

4. (Thrice Amended) An isolated and/or recombinantly produced polypeptide consisting essentially of a sequence identical to either SEQ ID No: 17 or an N-terminal fragment of SEQ ID No: 17 having a molecular weight of about 19 kD, which polypeptide binds to a *patched* protein or promotes proliferation of testicular germ line cells.

33. (Amended) The polypeptide of any of claims 1-4 ~~29-32~~, formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

34. (Amended) The polypeptide of any of claims 1-4 ~~29-32~~, wherein the polypeptide is purified to at least 80% by dry weight.

REMARKS

1-2. Applicants note that the request for a Continued Prosecution Application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d) is acceptable, and the amendments put forth in Paper 21 have been entered in full.

3. Applicants' amendments to the specification are believed to obviate the objection. Additionally, Applicants have submitted electronically a substitute sequence listing which reflects the amendments to the specification detailed herein.

4-6. In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect with traverse Group V, corresponding to claims 1-4, 7, 9, and 29-34, directed to polypeptides.

7-8. In response to the requirement that Applicants elect a single disclosed species, Applicants elect Desert hedgehog for search purposes only.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned

at 617-951-7000. Should an extension of time be required, Applicants hereby petition for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this submission be charged to **Deposit Account No. 18-1945.**

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Respectfully Submitted,



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